

ISLE OF WIGHT

play strategy



Unpacking Play

Lewis Carroll, 1871

'When I use a word', Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful voice, 'it means just what I choose it to mean - neither more nor less.' 'The question is', said Alice, 'Whether you can make words mean so many different things'.

'The question is', said Humpty Dumpty,
'which is to be master - that's all'.



Defining Play

Play is an abstract concept which is difficult to describe in its entirety. We all recognise play when we see it in action, but feel restricted by a limited vocabulary when asked to reach a definition as to what play is.



Theories of Play

1875 Schiller. Play burned off surplus energy

1901 Groos. Preparation for adulthood

1906 G S Hall. Recapitulation

1959 Freud. Catharsis. Safe way to express
negative emotions

1962 Piaget. A child works hard when at play



Play

Play is what children and young people do when they follow their own ideas and their own interests in their own way for their own reasons

Getting Serious About Play

DCMS, 2004



Play

...freely chosen , personally directed behaviour motivated from within. Through play the child explores the world and her or his relationship with it, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges she or he encounters, by playing the child learns and develops as an individual

National Occupational Standards, Playwork



Children's Play

Children's play embodies the essence of childhood and much that is healthy and vibrant in society. Regular enjoyment of time, space and opportunity to play is fundamental to children's happiness and essential to their healthy development. Modern life has thrown up a range of barriers to children playing.

Adrian Voce
Director, Children's Play Council



Children's Play

We can all remember playing as a child. Climbing trees, playing in the street, adventures in the woods; these are familiar memories of play. But for many children today these traditional way to explore and have fun are often unavailable or unsafe

Stephen Dunmore,
CEO BLF



Benefits of Play

- Benefits of Play
- Health promotion
- Familiarity with environment
- Promotion of social and emotional development
- Self-discovery



Best Play... 7 play objectives

Objective 1

The play provision extends the choice and control that children have over the play, the freedom they enjoy and the satisfaction they gain from it

Objective 2

The provision recognizes the child's need to test boundaries and responds positively to that need



Objective 3

The provision manages the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe from harm

Objective 4

The provision maximizes the range of play opportunities

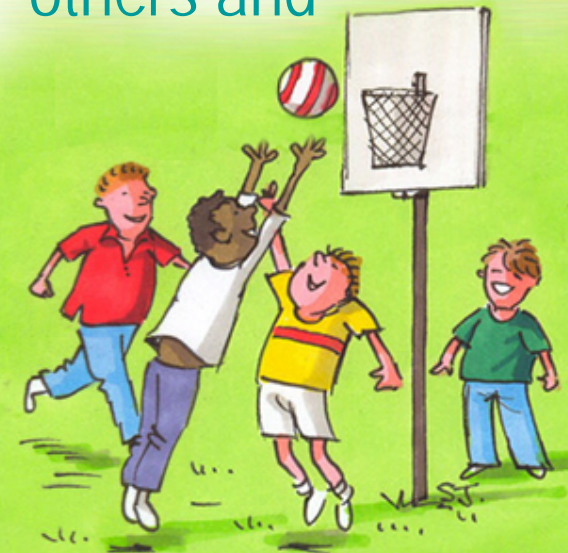


Objective 5

The provision fosters independence and self-esteem

Objective 6

The provision fosters children's respect for others and offers opportunities for social interaction



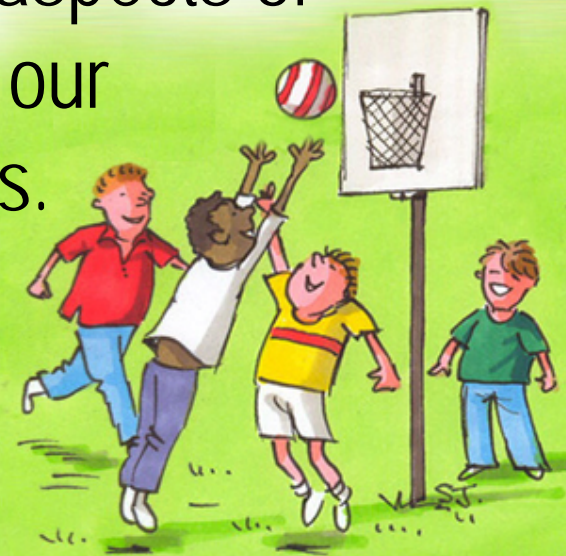
Objective 7

The provision fosters the child's well-being, healthy growth and development, knowledge and understanding, creativity and capacity to learn



Biological Play Drive

A number of studies and theories concluded that play is virtually universal among mammals. This has been contextualised to suggest that a Play Drive exists. This concept comes from research in psychology whereby fundamental aspects of human nature are drives that ensure our existence by meeting our basic needs.



...{play} is believed to be the outcome of a vital biological drive, in much the same way as eating and sexual activity are recognised as the results of other biological drives. Drives, ... are like genetic rivers, whose primeval forces come from sources deep within us and, which, in flowing through us, give us the energy and focus to make attempts at satisfying our most fundamental desires for life and understanding, often in the most trying of circumstances. (Hughes, 2001. p13)



Play Types (Hughes 1996)

- Exploratory play
- Fantasy play
- Imaginative play
- Locomotive play
- Mastery play
- Object play
- Role play



- Symbolic play
- Rough and Tumble play
- Socio-Dramatic Play
- Social Play
- Creative Play
- Communication Play
- Dramatic Play
- Deep Play



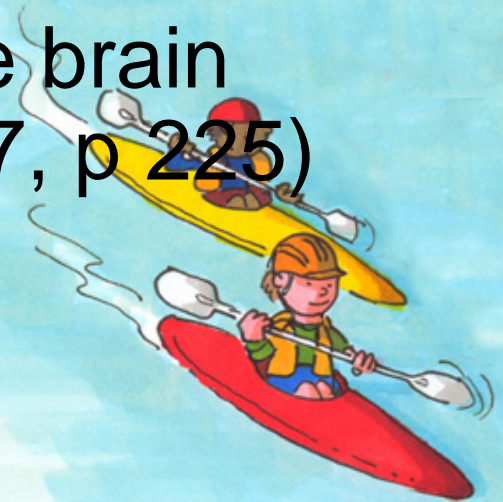
Deep Play

Play which allows the child to encounter risky or even life threatening experiences, to develop survival skills and conquer fear. For example leaping onto an ariel runway, riding a bike on a parapet, balancing on a high beam



The importance of Play

The infant's brain ability to constantly undergo physical and chemical changes as it responds to the environment is taken to suggest enormous plasticity, and that, play's function may be to assist the actualisation of the brain potential (Sutton-Smith, 1997, p 225)



Rich Play Environments

Complex dramatic play typically happens when no adult is directly involved, when children are on their own in a thoughtfully planned environment, using skills and exploring interests that adults have helped them to develop.

(Jones and Reynolds, 1992, p13)



Developing a good strategy

- Proactive- listen to children and young people
- Extend choice and control children have over their play
- Recognise children's needs to test boundaries by responding positively
- Offer calculated risk, whilst keeping children safe from harm
- Maximise range of play opportunities

